so, will Government consider participating in more such international conferences and the details, thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the participation in COTAL and the subsequent visit of the Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism to some of the Latin American countries has created a good deal of interest in India and if so, what is the number of tourists expected from Latin America this year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) India has participated for the first time in the Congress and EXPO of the confederation of tour operators|travel agents|hoteliers of Latin American Countries held in Madrid, Spain from 29-5-94 to 3-6-94. Department of Tourism put up an impressive stand at the Pavillion where publicity literature etc. translated in Spanish language was distributed. An India Evening was also orgainsed which was attended by the Tourism and Travel Industry representatives of various countries.

113 Boo'hs were set up at the Pavilion by participants from not only Latin American Countries and Spain but also from major tourist generating countries like USA, Canada, UK, France, China, Japan, Russia, Taiwan etc.

(b) India won the Best Promotion Award for its overall presentation. COTAL has announced the opening of a chapter in India. The Department is participating in several important international events such as, ITB-Berlin, WTM-London, EIBTM-Geneva, BIT-Milan, FITUR-Madrid, TUR-Sweden, ASTA-America, JATA-Japan, AFTA-Australia, etc.

(c) Yes Sir, a great deal of interest has been shown and it is expected that the number of tourists visiting India would increase in the coming year.

Emergency exist flown off in mid -air

383. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the emergency exist of a plane being operated by a private air taxi operater, Archana Airways, had flown off in mid-air recently causing a great deal of panic among the passengers, and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether government's attention has been drawn to a report appearing in the July, 1994 issue of the Top Tourism Bulletin that the preliminary reports had discounted the taxi operator's version that the accident had taken place because of the tinkering by a curious passenger, and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Archana Airways L-410 aircraft, wet leased from LET Aeronautical Works, Czech Republic, was operating a flight from Delhi to Simla on 17-6-94. The aircraft was under the command of Czech crew. After take off, when the aircraft was about 15 nautical miles from Delhi, its right side emergency door had flown off. The aircraft thereafter made a safe landing at Delhi airport.

(b) Investigation into the incident has revealed that inadvertent turning of the handle to the "Open" positon by the passenger/child had caused the emergency door to fly off during the flight.

Improvement of Tourist facilities at Andaman and Nicobar Islands

384. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what steps has been taken to improve the tourist facilities at Andaman and Nicobar, Island which has great tourist potential; and

(b) the reasons for which the weekly air service to Car Nicobar has been